

## June – Accomplishment: Busyness, Priorities, & Strength

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*Commit your work to the Lord,  
and your plans will be established.*

- [Proverbs 16:3](#)

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There is an element of our culture that glorifies being busy. It schedules and books a person within an inch of their lives, and fills the in between with distraction and noise, never allowing a moment for rest, solitude, or meaningful reflection. Somehow it is based in the lie that the more we accomplish, the better, more fulfilled, or more successful we will be. However, many are increasingly aware of this lie and there is emerging a similarly popular opposite end of the spectrum. This one prioritizes relaxation, “self-care”, and comfort to a paralyzing degree where nothing at all ever happens because we are all too busy working up the energy or the courage to move in the first place. Neither extreme is helpful to our calling.

The solution lies in Purpose.

*Why* do we do what we do?

Purpose allows us to (relatively) easily decide what to do and what not to do, when to do it and with whom. Did you know that it is not enough to “do the right thing”? We must also do it for the right reason! On the surface this might seem like even one more requirement to make what was already hard even more impossible, but if you contemplate this for a moment, it becomes increasingly obvious that it is precisely the opposite. Purpose is precisely the often overlooked secret to make doing the right thing even *possible*. The right thing is almost always difficult, either in deed or in choice. Our human weakness needs greater motivation than “it’s the right thing to do” to maintain an upright course of action long term. We need to be fully committed, all in, head over heels unconditionally and permanently in love with our purpose in order to gain clear direction for our choices, and the motivation to carry them through.

So, what is our purpose?

Well, Our Lord makes this very clear. Our Purpose is Him.

*But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides. – Matthew 6:33*

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. – Matthew 22:37-38*

*If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his own father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. **Luke 14:26***

But I'm not strong enough?

*in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. – 2 Corinthians 12:7-10*

But what if I don't want to?

What if something else is more appealing to my will? What if I'd rather pursue fame, fortune, food, and family? They are more comfortable and more instantly gratify, I grant you, but they do not last. These fleeting things leave us empty and with no taste for God. They only leave us wanting more.

*No man can serve two masters. For either he will hate the one, and love the other: or he will sustain the one, and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. – Matthew 6:24*

*For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. – Phillipians 3:18-21*

*"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also - [Matthew 6:19-21](#)*

**June Challenge:** In light of the above, let us spend this month in contemplating where our heart is. What do we pursue? Is our purpose truly what we say it is? How can we spend some time curating our days so that they more specifically reflect the purpose we claim to have? What is one thing we can say no to, in favor of our purpose? And on the other side of that, what is something we can say yes to that will help us to grow closer to our goal of intimacy and union with God this month?

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The following are some of the Word's most powerful passages on what it means to be Called to Action and Accomplishment with the proper intention and from the only true Source of strength. Come back to them as often as necessary. Some you may have heard, others more obscure. Give each passage its essential time to sink in and make a fresh mark on your heart. (Be sure to re-read the "How to Use This Book" and *Lectio Divina* guidelines in the Intro if you need a refresher on the most effective way to approach these verses.)

**#1**

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*"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving." - Colossians 3:23-24*

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**#2**

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*"Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails." - Proverbs 19:21*

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**#3**

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*Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking care of it not by constraint, but willingly according to God; not for filthy lucre's sake, but voluntarily: neither as lording it over the clergy, but being made pattern of the flock from the heart. And when the prince of pastors shall appear you shall receive a never-fading crown of glory. 1 Peter 5:1-4, 10-11 ??*

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**#4**

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*Faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. - James 2:17*

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**#5**

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*I have chosen you from the world that you should go and bring forth fruit, and your fruit should remain – John 15:16*

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**#6**

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*"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." - 1 Corinthians 15:58*

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**#7**

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*Great are the works of the Lord: sought out according to all His wills. – Psalm  
110:??*

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**#8**

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*In me is all grace of the way and of the truth, in me is all hope of life and vigor.  
(Sirach 24: 25)*

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**#9**

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*I lift up my eyes to the mountains—  
where does my help come from?  
My help comes from the Lord,  
the Maker of heaven and earth. – Psalm 121:1-2*

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**#10**

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*Unless the LORD build the house, they labor in vain who build it. Unless  
the LORD guard the city, in vain does the guard keep watch. – Psalm 127:1*

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**#11**

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*1 Cor 1:17-25 – but esp 25– “The foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the  
weakness of God is stronger than men.”*

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**#12**

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*Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established.  
[Proverbs 16:3](#)*

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**#13**

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*If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his own father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. - Luke 14:26*

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**#14**

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*"Truly I tell you," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. - Mark 10:29-30*

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**#15**

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*I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. - John 15:5*

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**#16**

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*But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. - 2 Corinthians 12:7-11*

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**#17**

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*For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like His glorious body, by the*

*power that enables Him even to subject all things to Himself. – Phillipians 3:18-21*

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**#18**

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*“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also - [Matthew 6:19-21](#)*

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**#19**

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*Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. - [Matthew 6:31-33](#)*

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**#20**

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*If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. - [Colossians 3:1-4](#)  
(also in April??)*

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**#21**

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*No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. - [1 Corinthians 10:13](#)*

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## #22

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*My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments, for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you. Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man. Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. ... - [Proverbs 3:1-5](#)*

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## #23

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*Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. - [Proverbs 3:5-6](#)*

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## #24

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*Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. - Psalm 37:4*

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## #25

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*Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her." – Luke 10:40-42*

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## #26

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*Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. – Ephesians 5:15-17*

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**#27**

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*The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to want. – Proverbs 21:5*

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**#28**

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*You looked for much, and behold, it came to little. And when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why? declares the LORD of hosts. Because of my house that lies in ruins, while each of you busies himself with his own house. – Haggai 1:9*

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**#29**

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*It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep. - [Psalm 127:2](#)*

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**#30**

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*So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. - 1 Corinthians 10:31*

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*Every choice is a statement of priorities - ParticularlyCALLED*

It is never enough simply to do the right thing, we must also do the right thing for the right reason and from the correct source of strength. - ParticularlyCALLED

Bernadette quote – if God had found another more ignorant than I, He would have chosen her.

Arouse, we beseech Thee, O Lord, the wills of Thy faithful, that, by more earnestly following after the fruit of the divine work they may more abundantly partake of Thy mercies. – Collect Last Sunday after Pentecost – Nov Benedictus 2024 p288